

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) While it is not correct to say that militancy has increased in J&K, but it is true that efforts are continued to be made by the elements sponsored and supported from across the border to keep up violence and vitiate the environment in the State through attacks on soft targets, indiscriminate use of explosive devices without regard to lives of innocent civilians, efforts to enforce 'bandhs' and 'hartals' particularly when militants are killed, in a bid to try and disrupt normal life and derail the political and democratic system. A close and continuous watch is being kept on the situation and all necessary efforts, including sustained operations against terrorists and subversive elements, are being made to ensure that these designs are not allowed to succeed. The Government both at the State and Central levels are taking necessary measures on a continuing basis to see that complete and abiding peace can be brought about in the State at the earliest.

Autonomy to CBI

5079. SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give over all autonomy to CBI;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c) The Central Bureau of Investigation derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 and enjoys full functional autonomy.

[Translation]

Investment by British Oil Companies

5080. KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have requested British Oil Companies engaged in exploration work to invest in India in view of likely increase in demand of Petroleum products in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the British Oil Companies thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) There is no such specific request by the Govt. However, under the New Exploration Licensing Policy announced recently all Indian and foreign companies are welcome to invest in oil Exploration work in India, including British oil companies.

Fraud in Bank of India

5081. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Bank of India Dhokhadhari Mamla Janch Aage Badhane Ki Anumati Thande Baste Me" appearing in the 'J.V.G. Times' dated 23rd April, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the progress made in the investigation initiated three years ago;

(c) whether any time limit has been fixed to get the investigation completed into the fraud of 89,92,815 dollars committed in the New York Branch of Bank of India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Government have seen the news item referred to in the question.

(b) to (e) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) have reported that a regular case was registered in February, 1994 against the then Senior Vice President of New York branch of Bank of India and others regarding a fraud committed in Bank of India's New York branch. The field investigation in India in this case has been completed. Since the investigation on various vital points is required to be conducted in the United States of America (USA), action has been initiated to file application in the Court for issuance of Letter Rogatory. CBI have further reported that as extensive investigation is required to be conducted by the US authorities, no time limit can be fixed at this stage for completion of the investigation in this case.

Use of Hindi

5082. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to propagate the application of Hindi in the offices of Ministry of External Affairs;

(b) whether Government propose to train personnel who can use various electronic gadgets, e.g. Telex, Computers etc. in Hindi also; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) All efforts for propagation of Hindi in the offices of the Ministry of External Affairs are being made in keeping with the provisions of the programme for implementation of the official language policy of the Union. Official Language Implementation Committees have been constituted in 85 Indian Missions/Posts abroad and action will be taken to establish such Committees in the remaining offices. Efforts would also continue to provide books, literature, audio visual material, bi-lingual computer software and other relevant material to these offices for promotion of the use of Hindi.